

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend James Westbrook, Jr. upon being selected president of the Tennessee County Commissioner's Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennessee citizens, who through their extraordinary professional and personal efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors is James "Jimmie" Westbrook, Jr., who has been selected president of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association, the statewide organization representing more than 1,640 members of all ninety-five county legislative bodies in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westbrook received his undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1963 before becoming certified as a public accountant, government financial manager, and internal auditor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westbrook served with acumen and alacrity for ten years, first as an auditor and then audit supervisor, with the Division of County Audit of the State Comptroller's office, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, James Westbrook, Jr. then began his exemplary thirteen year tenure as the executive director of the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), in which position he demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, then in 1988, Mr. Westbrook went on to become the first executive director, a position he held for fourteen years, of the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association (TCHOA), and he ably served there until his retirement in 2002; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, he began serving on the Weakley County Commission in 1974, making him one of the longest serving current members of a county legislative body in Tennessee; as a member of this institution, Mr. Westbrook serves as the chair of the Health, Education, and Economic Development Committee and as a member of the Rules Committee, the Financial Management Committee, and the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, a capable leader, he also serves with distinction as the chair of the Weakley County Economic Development Board; and

WHEREAS, James Westbrook, Jr. has also been working assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens for the past year as a member of the TCCA executive board and as a member of the Transportation Committee for the National Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, since his retirement in 2002, Mr. Westbrook has graciously volunteered as a non-paid public servant for both the City of Dresden and Weakley County, actively recruiting businesses and industries in order to create jobs for the fine citizens of Weakley County, and because of his exemplary service, the Mayor of Dresden named Mr. Westbrook as the chair of the city's Job Recovery Team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a dedicated and conscientious public servant, James Westbrook, Jr. still finds time to lend his extraordinary abilities to many organizations and boards, including the Weakley County Municipal Electric System and the Industrial Board for Dresden, and is involved in numerous community and civic groups, such as the Dresden Elks, the Masonic Lodge, Shriners International, and the Southside Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Westbrook was recognized in 2003 with the Golden Iris Award, and, in response to his tireless endeavors and multitude of achievements, he was named by the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce as the 2004 Weakley Countian of the Year; and

WHEREAS, James Westbrook, Jr.'s remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Westbrook is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife Donna Blackard Westbrook; his children, Stacey Stoker, Angie Hewett, and Jamie Westbrook; and his grandchildren, Abbey and Blake Stoker, Matt Hewett, Jamie Hewett Smith, and Courtlyn Westbrook; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westbrook is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized by this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James Westbrook, Jr. upon being selected president of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association, offer our gratitude for the many significant and meritorious contributions he has made to this great State, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.